

Serial No. 10/858,882 - Evans et al.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel non-elected claims 10, 19, and 20, and add new claim 21 as follows:

1. (original) A composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of intact killed cells of isolated β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae* and a concentrated extract of a culture of β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae*.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae* is encapsulated.
3. (original) The composition of claim 2 wherein said β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprises a strain having all the identifying characteristics of deposit accession number NRRL B-30607, a strain having all the identifying characteristics of deposit accession number NRRL B-30608, or mixtures thereof.
4. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said concentrated extract consists essentially of extracellular products of said culture of β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

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5. (original) The composition of claim 4 wherein said concentrated extract is substantially free of cells, cell wall fragments, and intracellular components of said β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

6. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said concentrated extract comprises extracellular products of said culture of β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae* having a molecular weight greater than about 1 kDa.

7. (original) The composition of claim 6 wherein said extracellular products have a molecular weights greater than about 2 kDa.

8. (original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said extracellular products have a molecular weights greater than about 3 kDa.

9. (original) The composition of claim 6 wherein said concentrated extract consists essentially of extracellular products of said culture of β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

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10. (canceled).

11. (original) A method of protecting a fish against infection by *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprising administering the composition of claim 1 thereto.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said fish is selected from the group consisting of golden shiners, bullminnows, bluefish, gulf menhaden, sea catfish, mullet, pinfish, Atlantic croaker, spot, weakfish, channel catfish, rainbow trout, eels, striped bass and their hybrids, sea bass, sea bream, turbot and tilapia.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said fish is a tilapia.

14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said composition is administered by intraperitoneal injection or bath immersion.

15. (original) A method of protecting a fish against infection by *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprising administering the composition of claim 3 thereto.

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16. (original) A method of protecting a fish against infection by *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprising administering the composition of claim 4 thereto.

17. (original) A method of protecting a fish against infection by *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprising administering the composition of claim 6 thereto.

18. (original) A method of protecting a fish against infection by *Streptococcus agalactiae* comprising administering the composition of claim 9 thereto.

19. (canceled).

20. (canceled).

21. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein said β -hemolytic *Streptococcus agalactiae* was isolated from an infected fish.